

BAC

BACKSTAYS. *n. f.* [from *back* and *stay*.] Ropes or stays which keep the masts of a ship from pitching forward or overboard.

BACKSWORD. *n. f.* [from *back* and *sword*.] A sword with one sharp edge.

Bull dreaded not old Lewis at *backsword*. *Arbut.* *J. Bull.*
BACKWARD. *adv.* [from *back* and *peapb*, Sax. that is, to-
BACKWARDS. *s.* wards the back.]

1. With the back forwards.
They went *backward*, and their faces were *backward*. *Gen. ix.*
2. Towards the back.

In leaping with weights, the arms are first cast *backward*, and then forwards, with so much the greater force; for the hands go *backward* before they take their rise. *Bacon's Nat. H.*
3. On the back.

Then darting from her malignant eyes,
She cast him *backward* as he strove to rise. *Dryden's Æneid.*
4. From the present station to the place behind the back.

We might have met them careful, beard to beard,
And beat them *backward* home. *Shakep. Macbeth.*

The monstrous fight
Struck them with horror *backward*; but far worse
Urg'd them behind. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vi.*

5. Regressively.
Are not the rays of light, in passing by the edges and sides of bodies, bent several times *backwards* and forwards with a motion like that of an eel?

6. Towards something past.
To prove the possibility of a thing, there is no argument to that which looks *backwards*; for what has been done or suffered, may certainly be done or suffered again. *South.*

7. Out of the progressive state; reflex.
No, doubtless; for the mind can *backward* cast
Upon herself, her understanding light. *Sir J. Davies.*

8. From a better to a worse state.
The work went *backward*; and the more he strove
To advance the suit, the farther from her love. *Dryden.*

9. Past; in time past.
They have spread one of the worst languages in the world,
if we look upon it some reigns *backwards*. *Locke.*

10. Perversely; from the wrong end.
I never yet saw man,
But what he would spell him *backward*; if fair-faced,
She'd swear the gentleman should be her sister;
If black, why, nature, drawing of an antic,
Made a foul blot; if tall, a lance ill-headed.

Shakep. Much ado about Nothing.

BACKWARD. *adj.*
1. Unwilling; averse.

Cities laid waste, they storm'd the dens and caves;
For wiser brutes are *backward* to be slaves. *Pope.*

We are strangely *backward* to lay hold of this safe, this only method of cure.

Our mutability makes the friends of our nation *backward* to engage with us in alliances. *Addison. Freeholder.*

2. Hesitating.

All things are ready, if our minds be so;
Perish the man, whose mind is *backward* now. *Shak. H. V.*

3. Sluggish; dilatory.

The mind is *backward* to undergo the fatigue of weighing every argument. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

4. Dull; not quick or apprehensive.

It often falls out, that the *backward* learner makes amends another way. *South.*

BACKWARD. *n. f.* The things or state behind or past.

What felt thou else
In the dark *backward* or abyss of time? *Shakep. Tempest.*

BACKWARDLY. *adv.* [from *backward*.]

1. Unwillingly; averse; with the back forward.

Like Numid lions by the hunters chas'd,
Though they do fly, yet *backwardly* do go
With proud aspect, disdain greater haste. *Sidney.*

2. Perversely.

I was the first man
That e'er receiv'd gift from him;
And does he think to *backwardly* of me,
That I'll requite it last? *Shakep. Timon.*

BACKWARDNESS. *n. f.* [from *backward*.] Dulness; unwillingness; sluggishness.

The thing by which we are apt to excuse our *backwardness* to good works, is the ill success that hath been observed to attend well designed charities. *Atterbury.*

BA'CON. *n. f.* [probably from *baken*, that is, dried flesh.]

1. The flesh of a hog salted and dried.

High o'er the hearth a chine of *bacon* hung,
Good old Philemon seiz'd it with a prong,
Then cut a slice. *Dryden's Fables.*

2. To save the *bacon*, is a phrase for preserving one's self from being unhurt; borrowed from the care of housewives in the country, where they have seldom any other provision in the house than dried *bacon*, to secure it from the marching soldiers.

What frightens you thus? my good son! says the priest;
You murder'd, are sorry, and have been confest.

3. To confound; to defeat with some confusion, as by perplexing or amusing; to *bacon* is sometimes less than to conquer.

Mezen-

BAF

O father! my sorrow will scarce save my *bacon*;
For 'twas not that I murder'd, but that I was taken. *Prior.*

BACULO'METRY. *n. f.* [from *baculus*, Lat. and *metron*.] The art of measuring distances by one or more staves. *Dia.*

BAD. *adj.* [quadr. Dutch; compar. *worse*; superl. *worst*.]

1. Ill; not good: a general word used in regard to physical or moral faults, either of men or things.

Most men have politics enough to make, through violence, the best scheme of government a *bad* one. *Pope.*

2. Vicious; corrupt.

Thou may'st repent,
And one *bad* act, with many deeds well done,
May'st cover. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xi. l. 256.*

Thus will the latter, as the former, world
Still tend from *bad* to worse. *Milton's Parad. Lost, b. xii.*

Our unhappy fates
Mix thee amongst the *bad*, or make thee run
Too near the paths, which virtue bids thee shun. *Prior.*

3. Unfortunate; unhappy.

The fun his annual course obliquely made,
Good days contracted, and enlarg'd the *bad*. *Dryden.*

4. Hurtful; unwholesome.

Reading was *bad* for his eyes, writing made his head ache. *Add.*

5. Sick.

BAD. *s.* The preterite of *bid*.

And, for an earnest of greater honour,
He *bad* me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawder. *Macb.*

BADGE. *n. f.* [A word of uncertain etymology; derived by *Junius* from *bade* or *bades*, a messenger; and supposed to be corrupted from *badage*, the credential of a messenger: but taken by *Skinner* and *Minshew* from *bagge*, Dut. a jewel, or *bagus*, a ring, Fr.]

1. A mark or cognizance worn to shew the relation of the wearer to any person or thing.

But on his breast a bloody cross he bore,
The dear remembrance of his dying lord;
For whose sweet sake that glorious *badge* he wore. *Spenser.*

The outward splendour of his office, is the *badge* and token of that glorious and sacred character which he inwardly bears. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

2. A token by which one is known.

A savage tygers on her helmet lies;
The famous *badge* Clarinda us'd to bear. *Fairfax, l. ii.*

3. The mark of any thing.

There appears much joy in him; even so much, that joy could not shew itself modest enough, without a *badge* of bitterness. *Shakep. Much ado about Nothing.*

Sweet mercy is nobility's true *badge*,
Let him not bear the *badges* of a wreck,
Nor beg with a blue table on his back. *Dryden's Persius.*

TO BADGE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To mark as with a badge.

Your royal father's murder'd.—
— Oh, by whom? —
Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had don't;
Their hands and faces were all *badg'd* with blood,
So were their daggers. *Shakep. Macbeth.*

BADGER. *n. f.* [from *badger*, Fr.] An animal that earths in the ground, used to be hunted.

That a brook, or *badger*, hath legs of one side shorter than the other, is very generally received not only by theorists and unexperienced believers, but most who behold them daily. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*

BADGER LEGGED. *adj.* [from *badger* and *legged*.] Having legs of an unequal length, as the *badger* is supposed to have.

His body crook'd all over, big-bellied, *badger legged*, and his complexion swarthy. *LeStrange.*

BA'DGER. *n. f.* [perhaps from the Latin *bajulus*, a carrier; but, by *Junius*, derived from the *badger*, a creature who stows up his provision.] One that buys corn and victuals in one place, and carries it unto another.

BA'DLY. *adv.* [from *bad*.] In a bad manner; not well.

How goes the day with us? Oh tell me, Hubert.—
Badly, I fear. How fares your majesty? *Shak. King John.*

BA'DNESS. *n. f.* [from *bad*.] Want of good qualities, either natural or moral.

It was not your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death; but a provoking merit, set awork by a reprovable *badness* in himself. *Shakep. King Lear.*

There is one convenience in this city, which makes some amends for the *badness* of the pavement. *Addison on Italy.*

I did not see how the *badness* of the weather could be the king's fault. *Addison. Freeholder.*

TO BA'FFLE. *v. a.* [from *bafler*, Fr.]

1. To elude.

They made a shift to think themselves guiltless, in spite of all their sins; to break the precept, and at the same time to *bafler* the curse. *South.*

He hath deserved to have the grace withdrawn, which he hath so long *bafler*ed and defied. *Atterbury.*

2. To confound; to defeat with some confusion, as by perplexing or amusing; to *bafler* is sometimes less than to conquer.

Mezen-

BAG

Eturia lost,
He brings to Turnus' aid his *bagged* host. *Dryden's Æneid.*

When the mind has brought itself to close thinking, it may go on roundly. Every abstruse problem, every intricate question will not *bafler*, discourage, or break it. *Locke.*

3. To crush; to bring to nothing.

A foreign potentate trembles at a war with the English nation, ready to employ against him such revenues as shall *bafler* his designs upon their country. *Addison. Freeholder, N° 20.*

BA'FFLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A defeat.

It is the skill of the disputant that keeps off a *bafler*. *South.*

The authors having mislaid of their aims, are fain to retreat with frustration and a *bafler*. *South.*

BA'FFLER. *n. f.* [from *bafler*.] He that puts to confusion, or defeats.

Experience, that great *bafler* of speculation, assures us the thing is too possible, and brings, in all ages, matter of fact to confute our suppositions. *Government of the Tongue, § 2.*

BAG. *n. f.* [belge, Sax. from whence perhaps by dropping, as is usual, the harsh consonant, came *bege*, *bage*, *bag*.]

1. A sack, or pouch, to put any thing in, as money, corn.

Cousin, away for England; haste before,
And, ere our coming, see thou shake the *bags*
Of hoarding abbots; their imprison'd angels
Set thou at liberty. *Shakep. King John.*

What is it that opens thy mouth in praises? Is it that thy *bags* and thy barns are full?

Those waters were inclosed within the earth as in a *bag*. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

Once, we confess, beneath the patriot's cloak,
From the crack'd *bag* the dropping guinea spoke. *Pope.*

2. That part of animals in which some particular juices are contained, as the poison of vipers.

The swelling poison of the several sects,
Which, wanting vent, the nation's health infects,
Shall burst its *bag*. *Dryden.*

Sing on, sing on, for I can ne'er be cloy'd;
So may thy cows their burden'd *bags* defend. *Dryden.*

3. An ornamental purse of silk tied to men's hair.

We saw a young fellow riding towards us full gallop, with a bob wig and black filken *bag* tied to it. *Addison. Spectator.*

4. A term used to signify different quantities of certain commodities; as a *bag* of pepper; a *bag* of hops.

TO BAG. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To put into a bag.

Accordingly he drain'd those marshy grounds,
And *bagg'd* them in a blue cloud. *Dryden's King Arthur.*

Hops ought not to be *bagged* up hot. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

2. To load with a bag.

Like a bee *bagg'd* with his honey'd venom,
He brings it to your hive. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*

TO BAG. *v. u.* To swell like a full bag.

The skin seemed much contracted, yet it *bagged*, and had a porringing full of matter in it. *Wise's Surgery.*

Two kids that in the valley stray'd,
I found by chance, and to my fold convey'd:
They drain two *bagging* udders every day. *Dryden's Virgil.*

BAGATELLE. *n. f.* [from *bagatelle*, Fr.] A trifle; a thing of no importance.

Heaps of hair rings and cypher'd seals;
Rich trifles, serious *bagatelles*. *Prior.*

BAGGAGE. *n. f.* [from *bag*, *bagage*, Fr.]

1. The furniture and utensils of an army.

The army was an hundred and seventy thousand footmen, and twelve thousand horsemen, beside the *baggage*. *Jewish, vii. 2.*

Riches are the *baggage* of virtue; they cannot be spared, nor left behind, but they hinder the march. *Bacon.*

They were probably always in readiness, and carried among the *baggage* of the army. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*

2. The goods that are to be carried away, as *bag* and *baggage*.

Delabella designed, when his affairs grew desperate in Egypt, to pack up *bag* and *baggage*, and sail for Italy. *Arbut. on Chins.*

3. A worthless woman; in French *bagasse*; so called, because such women follow camps.

A spark of indignation did rise in her, not to suffer such a *bagasse* to win away any thing of hers. *Sidney.*

When this *bagasse* meets with a man who has vanity to credit relations, she turns him to account. *Spektat. N° 205.*

BAGNIO. *n. f.* [from *bagno*, Ital. a bath.] A house for bathing, sweating, and otherwise cleansing the body.

I have known two instances of malignant fevers produced by the hot air of a *bagnio*. *Arbutnot on Air.*

BAGPIPE. *n. f.* [from *bag* and *pipe*; the wind being received in a bag.] A musical instrument, consisting of a leathern bag, which blows up like a foot-ball, by means of a port vent or little tube fixed to it, and stopped by a valve; and three pipes or flutes, the first called the great pipe or drone, and the second the little one; which pass the wind out only at the bottom; the third has a reed, and is played on by compressing the bag under the arm, when full; and opening or stopping the holes, which are eight, with the fingers. The *bagpipe* takes in the compass of three octaves. *Chambers.*

Vol. I.

2 O

To

BAI

No banners but shirts, with some *bad bagpipes* instead of drum and fife. *Sidney, b. i.*

He heard a *bagpipe*, and saw a general animated with the found. *Addison. Freeholder, N° 27.*

BAGPIPER. *n. f.* [from *bagpipe*.] One that plays on a bagpipe.

Some that will evermore peep thro' their eyes,
And laugh, like parrots, at a *bagpiper*. *Shak. M. of Venice.*

BAGUETTE. *n. f.* [Fr. a term of architecture.] A little round moulding, less than an astragal; sometimes carved and enriched.

TO BAIGNE. *v. a.* [from *baigner*, Fr.] To drench; to soak: a word out of use.

The women forlorn not to *baigne* them, unless they plead their heels, with a worse perfume than Jugurth found in the dungeon. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*

BAIL. *n. f.* [of this word the etymologists give many derivations; it seems to come from the French *bailler*, to put into the hand; to deliver up, as a man delivers himself up in surety.]

Bail is the freeing or setting at liberty one arrested or imprisoned upon action either civil or criminal, under security taken for his appearance. There is both common and special *bail*; common *bail* is in actions of small prejudice, or slight proof, called common, because any sureties in that case are taken: whereas, upon causes of greater weight, or apparent speciality, special *bail* or surety must be taken. There is a difference between *bail* and mainprize; for he that is mainprized, is at large, until the day of his appearance: but where a man is bailed, he is always accounted by the law to be in their ward and custody for the time: and they may, if they will, keep him in ward or in prison at that time, or otherwise at their will. *Cowel.*

Worry'd with debts, and past all hopes of *bail*,
The unppy'd wretch lies rotting in a jail. *Roscommon.*

And bribe with presents, or when presents fail,
They send their prostituted wives for *bail*. *Dryden.*

TO BAIL. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To give bail for another.

Let me be their bail—
They shall be ready at your highness' will,
To answer their suspicion—
Thou shalt not *bail* them. *Shakep. Titus Andronicus.*

2. To admit to bail.

When they had *bailed* the twelve bishops, who were in the Tower, the house of commons, in great indignation, caused them immediately again to be recommitted to the Tower. *Clarendon.*

BA'ILABLE. *adj.* [from *bail*.] That may be set at liberty by bail or sureties.

BA'ILIFF. *n. f.* [a word of doubtful etymology in itself, but borrowed by us from *baillie*, Fr.]

1. A subordinate officer.

Lausanne is under the canton of Berne, and governed by a *bailliff* sent them every three years from the senate of Berne. *Addison on Italy.*

2. An officer whose business it is to execute arrests.

It many times happeneth, that, by the under-sheriffs and their *bailliffs*, the owner hath incurred the forfeiture, before he cometh to the knowledge of the process that runneth against him. *Bacon.*

A *bailliff*, by mistake, seized you for a debtor, and kept you the whole evening in a spunging-house. *Swift.*

Swift as a bird the *bailliff* leaves behind. *Pope.*

3. An under-steward of a manor.

BA'ILIWICK. *n. f.* [of *baillie*, Fr. and *wic*, Sax.] The place of the jurisdiction of a *bailliff* within his hundred, or the lord's franchise. It is that liberty which is exempted from the sheriff of the county, over which the lord of the liberty appointeth a *bailliff*. *Cowel.*

A proper officer is to walk up and down his *bailliwick*. *Spenser on Ireland.*

There issued writs to the sheriffs, to return the names of the several land-owners in their several *bailliwicks*. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

TO BAIT. *v. a.* [from *baiten*, Germ.]

1. To put meat upon a hook, in some place, to tempt fish or other animals.

Oh, cunning enemy, that to catch a saint,
With faints dost *bait* thy hook! most dangerous
Is that temptation that doth goad us on
To sin in loving virtue. *Shakep. Measure for Measure.*

Let's be revenged on him; let's appoint him a meeting, give him a show of comfort in his suit, and lead him on with a sure *baited* delay, till he hath pawned his horses to mine host of the garter. *Shakep. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

Many sorts of fishes feed upon insects,